

and to hold and to develop diseases and epidemics, they will have it; we, as a profession, cannot fight them; *you cannot fight sense into anyone* any more than you can legislate honesty into anyone; you cannot fight a crazy man into sanity, and the people seem to have gone crazy. We extend a heartfelt and understood sympathy to Ohio for California is in no less danger from the insanity of its citizens.

The old order of things in California is changing very rapidly and soon we shall hardly know our own state. With the opening of **CHANGES** the canal there will be a wave of **COMING.** immigration into the Western coast of the United States that we shall be unable to realize until it actually begins. Already agents of at least three countries that supply the United States with a large proportion of its immigrants, have been located in California, studying conditions, making plans and preparing the way for what is to come; one of them has been here, it is said, for a year and a half. A large shipping firm in San Francisco has already contracted with one of the large steamship companies of the world to handle its business in San Francisco and arrangements have been completed for a direct line of steamers of large carrying capacity from the ports of Southern Europe to San Francisco for the almost exclusive purpose of bringing in immigrants. It is estimated that the cost of landing them in California will be only a very few dollars more than the cost to New York. What effect will this tremendous influx have upon the medical situation? Undoubtedly, a profound one; there will be a great influx of physicians—and quacks as well, if the wishes of the Governor, as he has been quoted, and of some of the "leaguers," eddyites and others are to be carried out by the legislature. Evil and chaotic days are sure to come and we might as well recognize the fact that they are coming and, in some small way, be ready. Every effort should be made to solidify our county medical units; to make them more and more the solid, scientific-medicine element of each community; to make membership in a county medical society a sort of "hall mark" in medicine.

The last Congress made an important change in the Postal Laws referring to second class mail; **CHANGE** dues of members of scientific societies **IN LAW.** are now definitely accepted as legitimate subscriptions provided the dues are not less than 50% of the subscription price of the publication issued by any such society. That means that hereafter there will be no confusion as to dues and subscription to the JOURNAL; the assessment for 1913 will be, as fixed by the House of Delegates last April, \$4.00 per member and every member will receive the JOURNAL.

The energetic efforts of the medical profession to protect the people against preventable diseases and epidemics are evidently **APPRECIATION?** neither desired nor appreciated by the people. In San **NO! ABUSE!** Francisco and other places, great resentment was expressed because the medical profession urged strict muzzling laws in order to stamp out rabies—a disease so easily prevented and yet so entirely incurable. In various parts of the State we have to-day smallpox; and *at last* the type has changed and become virulent, just as has been expected. And yet the people do not want protection against this easily prevented disease; they will wipe out even the present poor vaccination law at the next session of the Legislature. They will not allow the State Board of Health to properly guard and control sources of water supply, and so a number of sections are having epidemics of typhoid—another easily prevented disease. In the South, the physicians of Los Angeles forced an active and successful fight against poliomyelitis; did the people appreciate it? Not at all; they heaped abuse upon the men who had given their time and their work for the people's benefit. Quarantine "hurt business"! Dr. Powers, the health officer, was lied about and slandered to an unthinkable degree. In Riverside, an almost ideal community of intelligent people with a good and much respected medical society, poliomyelitis made its appearance with a mortality of one-third. The health officer was energetic and soon had the epidemic stopped. Did the intelligent community appreciate his effort? Not at all. The moving-picture men and other business men instigated an attack upon the health officer that seriously injured his practice and he resigned, after stopping an epidemic of a deadly and easily preventable disease. The interests prevail; the freaks and agitators are paramount; the people do not want to be protected from contagious or preventable diseases. It is foolish of us, as a profession, to try to force intelligence into the people at large. Let them take their dose of smallpox, typhoid, poliomyelitis, rabies and everything else they want. Let us have a really good epidemic of smallpox and then see what the people want to do about it. It is wrong for us to try to thrust our services upon them; they should come to us and ask for our assistance, when it will be cheerfully given; and then they will appreciate it. The cry of the freaks is "freedom of thought; freedom for the sick person to be treated by anyone and in any way he desires." That simply means freedom for the individual to commit suicide in any way he chooses or be robbed to the limit. But if that is what the people, for the moment, want—why, then let them have it; let them take their dose of bitter medicine and get over with it. What sense is there in serving them merely for the reward of abuse, when they don't want the service?